

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus for storing composite data streams. According to one embodiment of the invention, a composite data stream is stored so that it may be restored. The storing of the composite data stream includes decomposing the composite data stream into a plurality of constituent data streams, segmenting at least one of the plurality of constituent data streams, and discarding those of the segments resulting from the segmenting which are determined to have been stored previously.